



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Public Library

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Special Tours of Central Library to be Continued Through July *Program Extended to Meet Public Demand*

SAN DIEGO – Due to overwhelming response, special behind-the-scenes tours of the Central Library will be extended through July. The free tours are part of the 50th anniversary celebration of the Central Library.

The tours will be conducted July 3-31 on Saturdays at 3 p.m. and Tuesdays at 1 p.m. The Library had originally planned to only offer the tours in June, but the program is now being extended to meet demand.

“It’s very exciting that the public has been so interested in the history of the Central Library,” said City Library Director Anna Tatár. “I believe that people who have taken tours receive a better understanding of the depth of resources available at the San Diego Public Library, and the Central Library in particular.”

Highlights of the tours will include:

- Rare visits to the building’s two basement levels, which contain more than 60 percent of the library’s collection.
- Special exhibits that showcase the library’s hidden treasures.
- Historical information about the Central Library and future plans for the new Main Library.
- Sneak peeks at how the library has served the public for five decades.

Each tour is limited to 12 people to allow participants an up-close and personal experience. Reservations are required and can be made by calling 619-236-5817 or by signing up at the

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Special Tours of Central Library Offered to Public in June

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Literature Desk of the Central Library, located at 820 E St. in downtown San Diego.

The Central Library opened to the public with great fanfare on June 27, 1954, and a huge crowd turned out for the library's first day of operation. It replaced the old Carnegie Library that had occupied the same location since 1902. The Central Library is scheduled to be replaced by a new Main Library by 2007 on the block bounded by Park Boulevard and 11th Avenue and J and K streets. A groundbreaking for the new facility is expected to be held this fall.

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The City of San Diego Public Library – Your Link to the Past and Gateway to the Future